

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A removable tooth having leading and trailing ends utilized on a linear movement endless trencher chain:

a planar mounting portion that attaches to the chain and lies in a plane of movement of the trencher chain;

a cutting portion having a straight cutting edge at the leading end of the tooth positioned substantially normal to the direction of movement of the chain, the cutting portion being aligned from the mounting portion at an acute angle to the plane of the mounting portion and having convex surfaces on both sides of the cutting portion and;

a junction line between the mounting portion and the cutting portion which forms an acute angle with the direction of movement of the chain in a vertical plane whereby the cuttings produced by the tooth are lifted away from the chain as the chain is digging.

2. (original) A removable trenching tooth as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the cutting edge of the tooth has a constant bevel along its length of between 45° and 60°.

3. (original) A removable trenching tooth as set forth in Claim 1, which can be used on opposite outer sides of the trencher chain.

4. (original) A removable trenching tooth as set forth in Claim 1, formed by any one of the methods of casting, forging, molding or machining.

5. (original) A removable trenching tooth as set forth in Claim 1, including a planar top edge sloping upward from the trailing end that joins the leading end of the tooth at an acute angle forming a breaking point for fracturing the soil.

6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) A removable trenching tooth having leading and trailing ends utilized on a linear movement endless trencher chain:

a planar mounting portion that attaches to the chain and lies in a plane of movement of the trencher chain;

a cutting portion having a straight edge at the leading end of the tooth positioned substantially normal to the direction of movement of the chain, the cutting portion being aligned from the mounting portion at an acute angle to the plane of the mounting portion, and;

a junction line between the mounting portion and the cutting portion which form an acute angle with the direction of the movement of the chain in a vertical plane whereby the cuttings produced by the tooth are lifted away from the chain as the chain is digging.